GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3366
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2012
AI FLIGHTS TO GULF
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India and its subsidiaries have reduced passenger flights from Gulf region to Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether representations have been received to increase the number of flights from that region to Kerala;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard along with the details of private companies allowed to fly to Gulf; and

(e) the time by which more flights are likely to be introduced especially during festival/vacation seasons on the Gulf-Kerala sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) and (b): Due to the agitation of a section of its pilots, Air India was constrained to curtail its services on the Kerala-Gulf routes from 45 to 42 flights per week effective from 7.5.2012. Similarly, Air India Express was also forced to curtail some of its services on the Kerala-Gulf route. As per Summer 2012 Schedule, Air India Express had 77 flights per week on the Kerala-Gulf route, which were reduced by 20%. However, the passengersof cancelled /restructured flights were accommodated on other Air India/Air India Express flights or given full refund, as per their choice.

(c): Yes, Madam.

(d): The representations were sent to Air India for consideration.After calling off the stike by its Pilots, Air India is currently in the process of restoring flights /routes on its network which were curtailed / restructured due to the Pilot`s agiation.

(e): At present, Air India does not have the resources to operate additional flights during festival/vacation seasons on the Gulf-Kerala sector. In view of the peak season, Air India Express is operating 77 additional flights on peak demand days. Effective 17.9.2012, Air India Express will be restoring the complete Summer schedule and would also add more flights. Besides Air India and Air India Express, Indigo is operating 7 flights per week and Jet Airways is operating 35 flights per week on Kerala-Gulf sector.